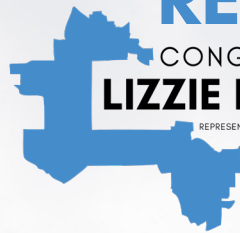




2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CONGRESSWOMAN
LIZZIE FLETCHER

REPRESENTING TEXAS' 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Dear Neighbor,

It has been a challenging, eventful year for us all, and the work of the Congress reflects that. Despite a difficult beginning, this has been a very productive Congress.

Congress has focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its health and economic consequences with seriousness of purpose, beginning with the *American Rescue Plan Act*, which President Biden signed into law in March. This bill mobilized the people and resources we needed after a year of the pandemic, including a national vaccination program, financial assistance, unemployment assistance, rental assistance, funding for schools and funding for state and local governments. The work of rebuilding our economy and our communities continued with the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* to provide historic investments in our roads, bridges, transit systems, airports, seaports, water conveyance systems, and more.

Throughout the year, I have worked with my colleagues, as well as our local and state leaders, on issues that matter to our community. You will see highlights of this work on the pages that follow.

I look forward to continuing to work for you in 2022. I am honored to represent you, and I am here to help you. Please do not hesitate to call me to share your thoughts or ask for assistance. You can do so through my [website](#), by sending me a letter or [email](#), or calling my office any time.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lizzy Hefner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SERVING CONSTITUENTS

At home in Houston, our TX-07 team has worked tirelessly to provide assistance and resources relating to the pandemic, the Texas winter storm, the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, and matters before federal agencies. I am proud to report that our team has closed more than 7,000 cases for constituents since I took office, more than 3,500 of them this year.

By the Numbers

7,000

CONSTITUENT CASES CLOSED (ALL-TIME)

Cases Closed By Year

825

2019

2,588

2020

3,587

2021

4,465

PHONE CALLS
ANSWERED IN 2021

67,879

LETTER, EMAIL, AND CALL
RESPONSES SENT IN 2021

\$322,322,4322

FEDERAL GRANT
DOLLARS RETURNED TO
TX-07

\$3,831,416

FEDERAL DOLLARS
RETURNED TO
CONSTITUENTS THROUGH
IRS, SSA, FEMA, ETC.

1,222

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS

To contact me, request a meeting, or open casework, visit:
fletcher.house.gov/contact

2021 Community Meeting Highlights

- January: Webinar on PPP Loans with SBA
- February: Telephone Town Hall on the Texas Winter Storm
- March: Virtual Constituent Services Pop-Up Office Hours
- March: Telephone Town Hall on COVID-19 Vaccines
- April: Virtual Community Conversation on Expanding Health Care in Texas with State Rep. Ann Johnson
- May: Webinar on the Restaurant Revitalization Fund with SBA
- May: Virtual Community Conversation on The First 100 Days: An Update with State Rep. Jon Rosenthal
- June: TX-07 Telephone Town Hall
- July: Virtual Community Conversation on the Child Tax Credit
- August: Virtual Community Conversation on COVID-19 and the Delta Variant with Dr. Peter Hotez
- August: Virtual Community Conversation on the Fourth Anniversary of Hurricane Harvey
- September: TX-07 Telephone Town Hall
- October: Webinar on National Flood Insurance Program Changes
- October: Houston-Area Service Academy Resource Fair
- November: Virtual Community Conversation on Mental Health
- December: TX-07 Telephone Town Hall

A continuing list of our office's events is available at:

fletcher.house.gov/events

To receive emails about upcoming events, sign up at:

fletcher.house.gov/newsletter



Meeting with veterans and special immigrant visa holders at Combined Arms to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

THANKING THOSE WHO SERVED

This year, I had the honor and privilege of presenting service medals to two TX-07 veterans. Dr. Billie Pennings (left) served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. Presenting this trailblazing radio operator and longtime #TX07 veterinarian her service medals along with a letter from President Truman was a joy! Amaury Mercado (right) served in the Navy during the Gulf War. Presenting his long-sought service medals and sharing the moment with his wife and son was a special privilege. It was an honor to express our community's gratitude for their service.



A message from one constituent our team was able to help with her Small Business Administration case:

I am a female small business owner in Texas' Seventh Congressional District in Houston. COVID-19 has deeply affected my business revenue over the last 18 months. As I was eligible, I applied for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) in April 2021.

Like many others, I received email after email from the SBA office requesting information. The information was provided time and time again, only to be told the information was received but had not been uploaded to my files.

As of October 20, 2021, I was still receiving emails requesting the same data provided at least 15 times. At this point, I contacted Congresswoman Fletcher's Office to see if any help could be provided. She and her staff responded to me immediately (same day).

Ms. Fletcher's Office contacted the SBA and within four days, I received a phone call from the SBA Public Information Office. This office uploaded my documents while I was on the phone with them and indicated my loan application had been placed with a high priority team.

Lizzie Fletcher truly supports and stands up for her constituents. ... I will support her endeavors for the betterment of her district, as I truly believe that is her reason for holding public office. Thank you!

Jean H.



Distributing water following the Texas Winter Storm.



Welcoming Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to Houston on the first trip she took after her confirmation to the Cabinet.



Celebrating Dandelion Cafe's recognition by the SBA.

Read this and more stories from constituents helped at fletcher.house.gov/casework-success.

Do you need help with a federal agency? Contact us at:
fletcher.house.gov/forms/casework

SPOTLIGHT ON RECOVERY

This year, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the *American Rescue Plan Act* and the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, transformational legislation to invest in our families, our economy, our infrastructure, and our country's future.

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Signed in early 2021, the *American Rescue Plan Act* provided direct relief for communities and families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more highlights of the *American Rescue Plan Act* in my [Mid-Year Report](#).

Direct Financial Assistance

\$1,400

Direct Checks

\$3,600

per child aged 0-5

\$1,000

Earned Income Tax Credit

\$3,000

per child aged 6-17

Starting July 15, qualifying families began seeing monthly Child Tax Credits deposited to their bank accounts or mailed to them!

Who has benefited?

1.4 million Texas workers became eligible for a **\$1,000 Earned Income Tax Credit**.¹

88 percent of Texans received stimulus payments of up to **\$1,400 per person**.¹

82.5% of children in TX-07 gained from the expanded and improved Child Tax Credit — **170,100 children**.²

6.6 million Texas families received the Child Tax Credit, helping lift **503,000 Texas children** out of poverty.¹

240,000 Houston families receiving SNAP saw a **15% increase in SNAP** amount.³

1. White House; 2. House Appropriations Committee; 3. Greater Houston Partnership

Signed into law:

Fletcher's Expand Medicaid Now Act

Included as part of the *American Rescue Plan Act*, the *Expand Medicaid Now Act* encouraged states that have not yet done so to expand Medicaid by increasing federal funds for any new expansion state. In Texas, more than 1 million people could gain access to health care through Medicaid expansion, including more than 200,000 residents in Harris County, if the State of Texas chooses to expand.



COVID-19 Vaccines

In the *American Rescue Plan Act*, Congress prioritized providing access to vaccines to all Americans through:

Distribution and Administration
\$7.5 Billion

Information and Education
\$1 Billion

Vaccine Supply Chain
\$6 Billion

THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

An investment in our community and our country's future.

Texas and the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*



Viewing progress on the bridges in the Meyerland area, part of Project Brays.

\$26.9 Billion to repair Texas roads

\$3.3 Billion to modernize public transit

\$1.2 Billion for infrastructure at Texas airports

\$100 Million to help provide broadband coverage

\$2.9 Billion to improve water infrastructure

THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT:

GRID INFRASTRUCTURE

- Establishes programs to support activities that reduce the likelihood and consequences of impacts to the electric grid from extreme weather and natural disasters and to protect from cyberattacks and imminent threats.

CLEAN DRINKING WATER

- Expands access to clean drinking water for households, businesses, schools, and child care centers.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

- Repairs and rebuilds our roads and bridges and supports major, transformational projects with a focus on resilience and safety for all users, and
- Provides the largest federal investment in public transit in U.S. history to modernize and expand public transit, and to improve accessibility.

BROADBAND

- Deploys broadband infrastructure to increase access to reliable, high-speed internet.

PORTS

- Invests in port infrastructure, expediting commerce to strengthen our supply chains and support U.S. competitiveness at the Port of Houston and across the country.

FLOOD RESILIENCY

- Funds Army Corps of Engineers infrastructure priorities to address a backlog of authorized projects.

WORKING IN WASHINGTON

Through work with my colleagues in committee and caucuses and with our Texas delegation, my priority—and my job—is to bring the voice of our district in Washington, D.C.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW: 117TH CONGRESS

14
Bills
Led

200
Bills
Co-Sponsored

252
Total
Votes

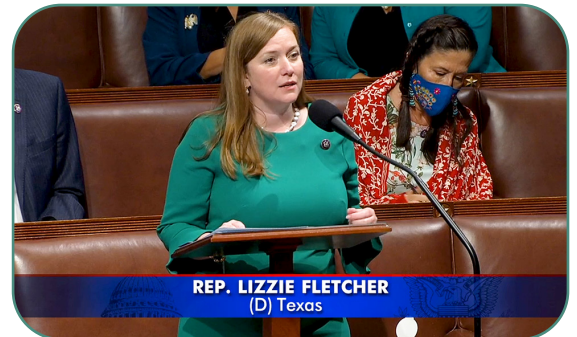
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Health Subcommittee
- Communications and Technology Subcommittee
- Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

- Environment Subcommittee



DEDICATING THE DEPUTY SANDEEP SINGH DHALIWAL POST OFFICE

This October, family, colleagues, and community leaders joined me to celebrate the remarkable life and to honor the memory of Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal at a ceremony to dedicate the U.S. Post Office at 315 Addicks Howell Road in his name. The Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office will serve as a permanent reminder of his service, his sacrifice, and his example for us all, forever honoring his contributions as a Houstonian and as an American.

In 2015, Dhaliwal became the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to serve while wearing his articles of faith, including his turban and beard. He was the first Sikh police officer to serve in the Harris County Sheriff's Office and was a role model and a trailblazer for Sikh Americans and religious minorities that sought to serve in law enforcement.

January 6, 2021

On January 6, an angry mob stormed the Capitol and attacked our democratic system of government. I was present in the House chamber during this unprecedented—almost unimaginable—attack on our country. That attack has profoundly shaped this Congress—its members and its work. Following these events, I voted to impeach President Trump, to award Congressional Gold Medals to Capitol Police Officers who defended the Capitol that day, and every day since, and to create the bipartisan January 6 Select Committee to investigate the Capitol attack.

The events of that day are so consequential for our country. We must investigate these events and must continue to respond to the threats to our country they represent.



CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP

Partial List

- New Democrat Coalition
 - Trade Task Force, Co-Chair
- Natural Gas Caucus, Co-Chair
- Access to Legal Aid Caucus
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Caucus
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Energy Export Caucus
- Equality Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Oceans Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PFAS Task Force
- PORTS Caucus
- Pro Choice Caucus
- Small Business Caucus
- Task Force for Combating Antisemitism
- Venezuela Democracy Caucus



MY LEGISLATION

This year, I introduced more than a dozen bills to address issues of great importance in our community—from expanding access to quality, affordable health care, including mental health care, to protecting consumers, to helping small businesses, to cleaning up our environment, to improving disaster recovery, to closing the digital divide and co-sponsored many more.

Learn about all of my legislation, co-sponsorships, and votes by clicking [here](#), and see below for highlights.



There are more than 56,000 documented “orphaned” or abandoned oil and gas wells across the country, many of them in Texas, which can leak methane, contaminate groundwater, and create safety risks for neighboring communities.

Signed into law as part of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, the *REGROW Act* aims to plug every documented orphaned well in the country by investing nearly \$5 billion toward cleaning up these sites. This is a win for our environment and for our energy sector, creating tens of thousands of jobs for skilled oil and gas workers.

COLLABORATE IN AN ORDERLY AND COHESIVE MANNER ACT



INVESTING IN THE COLLABORATIVE CARE MODEL



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans have experienced increased rates of anxiety, depression, and trauma, with approximately 4 in 10 adults reporting symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder. Recent Census data shows, however, that the number of Americans seeking mental health assistance and not receiving it increased by one-third over the past year.

This legislation invests in a specific health care delivery model that integrates behavioral health care into primary care, giving patients and their doctors access to critical resources when they need them.

PASSED THE HOUSE

THE HAZARD ELIGIBILITY AND LOCAL PROJECTS ACT

MOVING FORWARD FROM THE LAST STORM.
BEING READY FOR THE NEXT ONE.



In order to close the digital divide across the country, we need to support communities as they upgrade and increase broadband capabilities.

One way that Congress can do this is by providing cities and local governments with resources to process the expected increase in permitting applications necessary to build out broadband infrastructure. This bill creates a grant program that will provide this vital support, ensuring communities have the resources necessary to modernize their infrastructure.

Under current law, local and state agencies applying for federal funds to begin recovery projects after disasters must wait until they receive approval from FEMA before purchasing land or starting construction on a project. Beginning without approval disqualifies the project from receiving federal assistance.

The HELP Act allows certain eligible disaster mitigation projects to begin without the risk of losing potential federal funds. It passed the House on November 4, 2021.

Reps. Fletcher and Schakowsky Introduce Toxic-Free Beauty Act

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07) and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-09) have introduced the Toxic-Free Beauty Act, legislation that prohibits the use of certain hazardous chemicals from personal and professional care, beauty, and salon products sold in the United States.

Some of the chemicals used to create personal and professional care, beauty, and salon products have been linked to serious harm to human health and the environment,

but to date, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has only banned or restricted eleven chemicals. Through the Toxic-Free Beauty Act, products containing certain toxic chemicals would be officially considered harmful for consumers by the FDA and result in enforcement against these products, effectively banning the chemicals from use.

“Many people assume that the personal care and beauty items they use are safe, but

with minimal oversight, many of the care, beauty, and salon products sold across the country actually contain toxic chemicals,” said Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher. “I’m glad to partner with Congresswoman Schakowsky to introduce the Toxic-Free Beauty Act to protect the health and safety of people across the country by banning chemicals known to cause significant harm in beauty products.”

Read more at [Village Southwest News.com](https://www.villagesouthwestnews.com).

USPS Investigation

In June, after hearing from many of our neighbors of persistent issues at post offices in the district, I [asked](#) the U.S. Postmaster Inspector General to investigate.

This December, the Inspector General [issued an inspection report and recommendations](#). I am grateful for the work and cooperation of the Inspector General’s Office as well as our local Postal District Manager. I look forward to seeing the recommendations implemented and to improved service for our residents in our community.

office found the North Houston PADC reported the most delayed mail in the nation from January 1 to December 31, 2020.

Although the first reports I received were in May 2019, there was a substantial increase in complaints in the second half of 2020. This is particularly concerning given our increased reliance on the USPS for life-saving medications, stimulus checks, tax refunds, and correspondence with loved ones.

LIZZIE FLETCHER
The District 7, Texas
Congresswoman
Representative in Congress
for Texas’ 7th District
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

June 4, 2021

Tammy L. Whitcomb
Postmaster Inspector General
1715 N. Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209-2020

Dear Inspector General Whitcomb:

I write today to inquire about persistent mail service problems in Texas’ Seventh Congressional District and to request a formal investigation into USPS Post Office Addressee West (2665 Whittington Dr., Houston, Texas 77077), USPS Post Office Westway (11805 Chumley Rock Rd., Houston, Texas 77053), and the USPS Post Office Julius Melcher Station (2480 Yarmouth Lane, Houston, Texas 77073).

Since May 2019, constituents have contacted my office with reports of stolen and lost mail, mailboxes that have been broken into or need repairs to be functional, and walked checks. To date, we have received more than 100 complaints for these three post offices and five others. In one case, a check worth \$22,000 was stolen. While my staff has worked with local Consumer & Industry Contact Managers to attempt to solve these cases at an individual level, the continuation of these types of complaints are indicative of a larger problem with the mail system in Houston.

In 2016, your office issued an alert revealing that the North Houston Processing and Distribution Center (PADC), where all mail in Houston stops on its way to its final destination, had the highest overall delayed mail volume in the country. While your report at the time identified contributing factors and made recommendations to lessen delays, anecdotal evidence from my constituents and the result of your April 2021 audit of the facility reveal a continued problem with on-time delivery in the Houston area. In fact, your

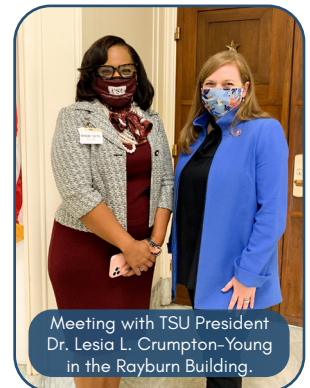
1 Management Alert: Timeliness of Mail Processing at the North Houston, TX, Processing and Distribution Center (Houston Number 30-447-1-602), USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG) 20, 2016 (<https://www.uspsig.gov/content/management-alert-timeliness-mail-processing-north-houston-to-processing-and-distribution>)



Standing with my Texas colleagues and Texas legislators in support of federal legislation protecting voting rights.



Supporting the Women's Health Protection Act at the Capitol.



Meeting with TSU President Dr. Lesia L. Crumpton-Young in the Rayburn Building.

Transport Topics | November 8, 2021

House Passes FEMA Aid Bills

By Eugene Mulero

Legislation designed to expedite post-disaster construction of infrastructure projects in states was easily passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month.

House lawmakers approved the *Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (or HELP) Act*,

sponsored by Reps. Lizzie Fletcher (D-Texas) and Michael McCaul (R-Texas). The measure aims to expedite certain classifications of projects after a presidentially declared disaster.

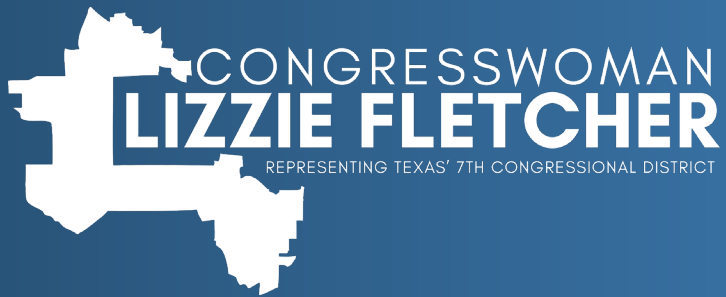
The bill specifically is designed to allow agencies to proceed with land acquisition and construction projects without requiring certain reviews. Kicking off the project would not risk missing out on federal matching funds. Recent hurricanes and other severe weather events have prompted

federal lawmakers to heighten their response to reconstruction efforts. Via policy updates to FEMA and other agencies, transportation policymakers say they seek to facilitate access to recovery funds and aid.

“In Houston, we know disaster recovery can be a prolonged, years long process,” said Fletcher on Nov. 4. “By allowing certain disaster mitigation and recovery projects to begin more quickly without jeopardizing potential federal funding, the HELP Act

provides a straightforward solution to a real problem that will have a meaningful impact at home and across our country. I am proud of this bill and all it represents, bipartisan, common-sense, meaningful legislation to help expedite disaster mitigation projects. The HELP Act was born out of a partnership with leaders from Texas’ 7th congressional district and will benefit all Houstonians.”

Read more on [TTNews.com](https://www.ttnews.com).



STAY IN TOUCH!

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